

▶▶▶ ACCEL • WORLD

Art: **Hiroyuki Aigamo**
Original Story: **Reki Kawahara**
Character Design: **HIMA**





▶▶▶ ACCEL • WORLD 01

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characters

■ **Kuroyukihime** = Umesato Junior High School student council vice president. Trim and clever girl who has it all. Her in-school avatar is a spangled butterfly that she programmed herself.

■ **Haruyuki** = Haruyuki Arita. Grade Seven at Umesato Junior High School. Bullied, on the pudgy side. He's good at games but shy. His in-school avatar is a pink pig.

■ **Chiyuri** = Chiyuri Kurashima. Haruyuki's childhood friend. Meddling, energetic girl. Her in-school avatar is a silver cat.

■ **Takumu** = Takumu Mayuzumi. A boy Haruyuki and Chiyuri have known since childhood. He currently attends a different school from Haruyuki and Chiyuri. Beautiful boy who belongs to the kenda team.

key word

■ **Neuralinker** = Portable terminal that connects with the brain via a wireless quantum connection and supports all five senses with images, sounds, and other stimuli.

■ **Brain Burst** = Neuralinker application sent to Haruyuki by Kuroyukihime.

■ **In-school local net** = Local area network established within Umesato Junior High School. Used during classes and to check attendance. Umesato students are required to always be connected to it.

■ **Global connection** = Connection with the worldwide net. Global connections are forbidden on Umesato Junior High School grounds, where the in-school local net is provided instead.



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accel world

art:

hiroyuki aigamo

original story:

reki kawahara

accel world 01: kuroyukihime's return

character design:

hima



LISTEN
UP!!

ON THE
ROOF IN FIVE
MINUTES!!
IF YOU'RE LATE,
IT'S PORK BUN
PUNISHMENT
FOR YOU!!

AND IF YOU
SQUEAL, IT'S
THE PORK
ROAST
PUNISHMENT!!

GYAH
HA
HA
HA
HA!

HARU...

BOY...

AH!

DOGA
(WHIMPER)

I...!!

NGH...

UGH...



AH.....

YOU'RE
...?

— DON'T
YOU WANT
TO GO
FURTHER,
BOY?

DON'T
YOU WANT TO
"ACCELERATE"?

You have one new e-mail.



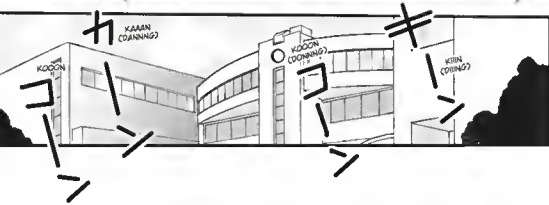
PIKON
(PING)

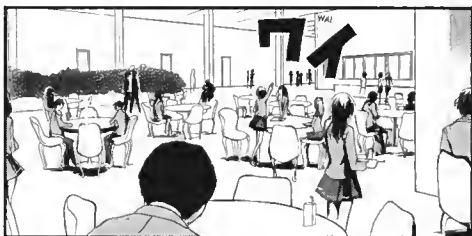


..llem-a wen end eueh uoy

BIKLI
(GALUDERO)









GUMMERS
(GUMMERS)



"NEURO-LINKERS"—
PORTABLE
TERMINALS
SUPPORTING ALL
FIVE SENSES
WITH IMAGES,
SOUND, AND OTHER
STIMULI—HAVE
SPREAD TO ALL
CORNERS OF
SOCIETY...

—THE
LATTER
HALF OF
THE
2040s

...AND
HALF OF
EVERYONE'S
DAILY LIVES
TAKES PLACE
ON VIRTUAL
NETWORKS.

BUT IN THE
END, EVERY
HUMAN BEING
IS STILL JUST
AN EXISTENCE
BOUND BY THE
CHAINS OF A
"FLESH AND
BLOOD" BODY.

AND
IF YOU
SQUEAL, IT'S
THE PORK
ROAST PUN-
ISHMENT!

—I
CAN'T
DO IT
!!!



IF HE
HITS ME,
IT'LL
HURT.

AND
CRYING
'COS IT
HURTS
IS SO
PATHETIC
I COULD
DIE—



DIRECT
LINK.

I THROW
IT AWAY—
THE REAL
ME.



THAT'S
WHY I...

GUUUU
(GROWL)

DOOSH
(THUMP)

GASHI
(CREAK)

"FULL
DIVE"

KIYU
(SKREEE)

—Umesato Junior High School.
You are now logged into the
school's local network.

THIS WAY...
I DON'T FEEL
HUNGRY.

MADE
CPMTD

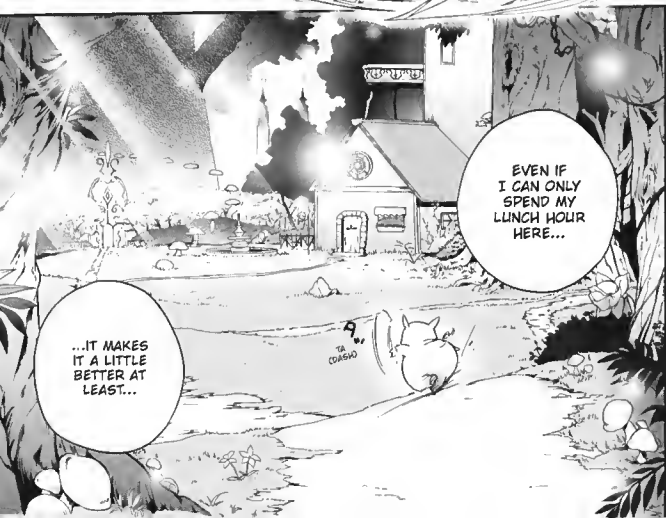
たて
たて
MADE

PIPI
(BEEP)

いっ
いっ

BOU
(GLOW)

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
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91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100



EVEN IF
I CAN ONLY
SPEND MY
LUNCH HOUR
HERE...

...IT MAKES
IT A LITTLE
BETTER AT
LEAST...

た
た
CRASH



THAT'S...



KURO-
YUKI-
HIME,
A.K.A.
SNOW
BLACK.

SECOND-
YEAR
STUDENT
AND VICE
PRESIDENT
OF THE
STUDENT
COUNCIL—

SHE'S
SOMEONE
YOU HARDLY
EVER SEE.

BUT IT TOOK
ME DAYS
TO MAKE
THIS....!!

GIMME!!

OOH, I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
HAD SUCH
A FANCY
AVATAR?

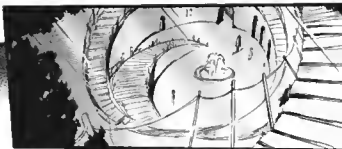
SHUT UP!!
USE THIS,
YOU LITTLE
PORKER!!
IT'S MORE
YOUR
STYLE!!

GYAH
HA
HA
HA!

SHE
BASICALLY
RECREATED
HER
REAL-LIFE
BEAUTIFUL
SELF.

AN
EXQUISITE,
GORGEOUS,
ORIGINAL
AVATAR.

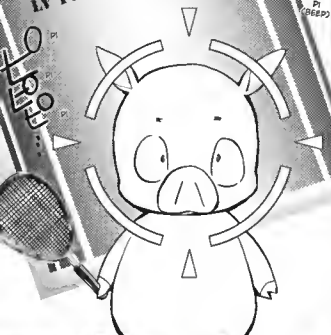




LOGIN: Haruyuki Arita

HISCORE
LV 149 2467328 PTS

LO
P1
(BEEP)



IT'S NOT
POPULAR,
SO THE
AREA'S
DESERTED.

THIS
IS THE
PLACE
FOR
ME.

THE
"VIRTUAL
SQUASH
GAME"
...



WHO
NEEDS IT
ANYWAY
...!!?

FREAKIN'
REALITY!

PAKON
(THWACK)



▶ START ◀

PON
(PING)

LO
P1
(BEEP)

DAMMIT...
REALITY!

FU
(FWISH)









CHIYU...

SO THIS
IS WHERE
YOU LOCKED
YOURSELF
UP!!

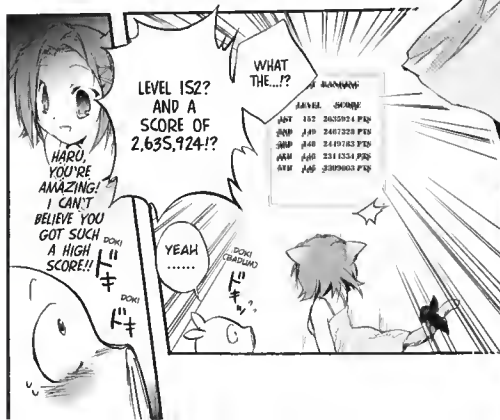
I'VE BEEN
LOOKING ALL
OVER FOR
YOU!

HONESTLY,
HARU! YOU
DISAPPEAR
EVERY
LUNCH!



...HUH?

I MEAN,
YOU'RE PLAYING
ALL BY YOURSELF,
AND IT'S THIS
LAME...



LEVEL IS2?
AND A
SCORE OF
2,635,924!?

WHAT
THE...!?

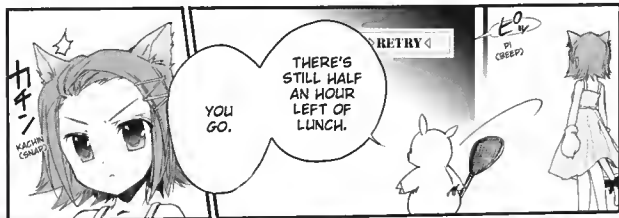
DATE	NAME
152	2615024 PIR
149	2407328 PIR
148	2419783 PIR
146	2311334 PIR
145	2319803 PIR

HARU,
YOU'RE
AMAZING!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
GOT SUCH
A HIGH
SCORE!!

YEAH

DOKI
GRADUUM

ドキン









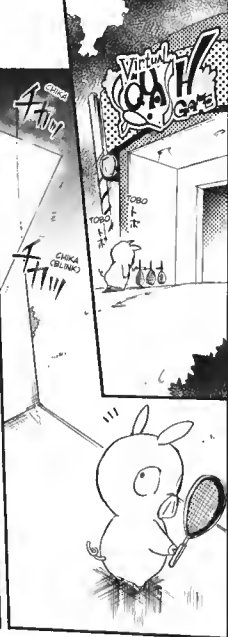
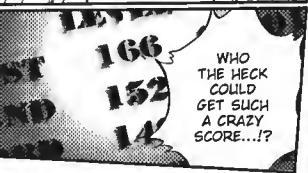
RYOTON
(SHOCK)











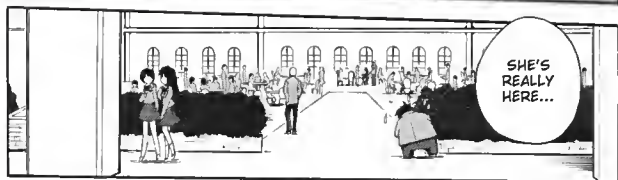
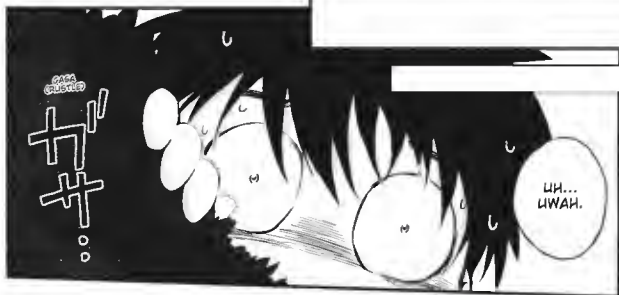


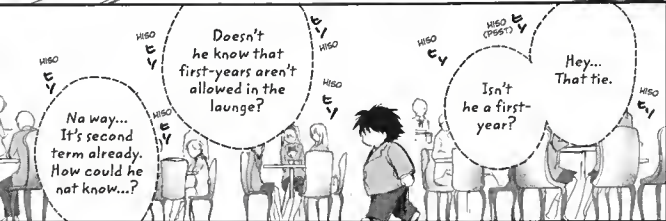
KUROYUKI HIME!!

—SO
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO...

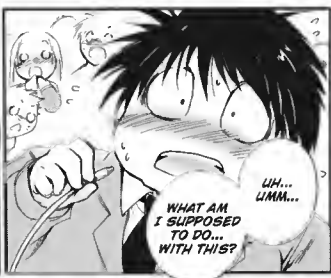
...GOT THAT
RIDICULOUS
SCORE OVER
LUNCH?











...BASICALLY
HAS NO
SECURITY,
UNLIKE
THE USUAL
WIRELESS
TRANSMIS-
SION.

CALLED
"DIRECTING"
FOR SHORT,
THIS
INTERFACE...

WARNING
Wired Connection
Connected...

"DIRECT
WIRED
TRANS-
MIS-
SION."
CON-
NECTING
NEURO-
LINKERS
WITH A
DIRECT
CABLE.

Wired Connection

THIS IS WHY
DIRECTING IS
RESERVED FOR
PEOPLE BOUND
BY A STRONG
SENSE OF
TRUST.

PARENTS,
SIBLINGS,
AND—

Sorry for
asking you
to go out of
your way to
come here.

Now
then
...

Can you
neurospeak?

Haruyuki
Arita-kun.

LOVERS.

Y...

Yes...!!

トクン
トクン
トクン
(BADLINE)



2000 CHANG 2000 CHANG

Open BB2039.exe?

Yes

No

!!

I CAN'T
POSSIBLY
LAUNCH AN
UNKNOWN
APP...

WHAT
THE...?
NO WAY...
NO CAN
DO!!

...FROM
SOMEONE
I BARELY
KNOW...!!

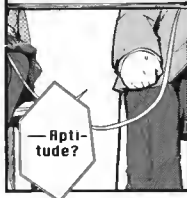
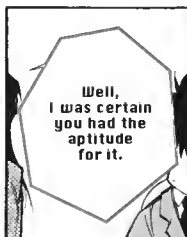
...THE REAL
WORLD...

DAMAGE...
BREAK THE
WORLD.

I MEAN,
IF IT'S A
VIRUS, WHO
KNOWS
HOW MUCH
SERIOUS
DAMAGE
IT COULD
DO...?





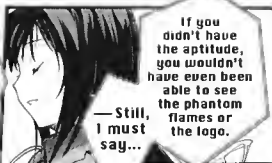




The old me
hesitated for
two minutes
about accepting
the program.

It seems
I was just
wasting
my time.

I'd even
worked out
a whole
speech to
persuade
you...



If you
didn't have
the aptitude,
you wouldn't
have even been
able to see
the phantom
flames or
the logo.

— Still,
I must
say...



...your
quick
decision
surprised
me.



Er...
A-anyway,
nothing seems
especially
different
now that I've
installed it!

What!?
Oh...
No, well...



**SO THIS IS
WHERE YOU
ARE, YOU
TWERP!!!**

**WHY,
YOU!!**

What
is this
progr—

HEY,
PI...
ARITAAA
!!

WHO
SAID YOU
COULD
SKIP OUT
ON YOUR
ORDERS
!!!?

A.....

ARAYA
.....!?



ARAYA-KUN'S
FAVORITE
LUNCH

CHAPTER

#02

ARITA!
YOU...!!

YOU GOT
A JOB TO
DO....!!

GA
(SQUEEZE)

GATA
(TREMBLE)

A...

ARAYA
.....!!





—THAT
YOU
MIGHT
HAVE
BEEN...



...SENT TO
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL
FROM THE
ZOO.

!!?!?!



YOU ARE
SO DEAD,
PIIIIIIG!!

THAT'S
IT!!



HE'S
GONNA
HIT
ME—!!



WH—
WH—
GA
GA
GA



AH!!



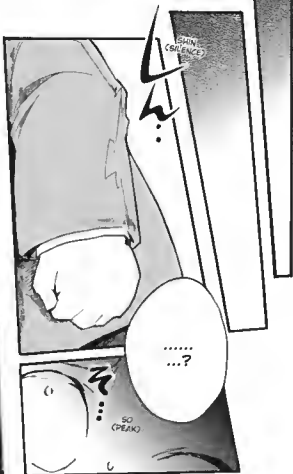
**"BURST
LINK"!!**

**NOW!!
SHOUT
IT!!**

B...

**"BURST
LINK"!!**

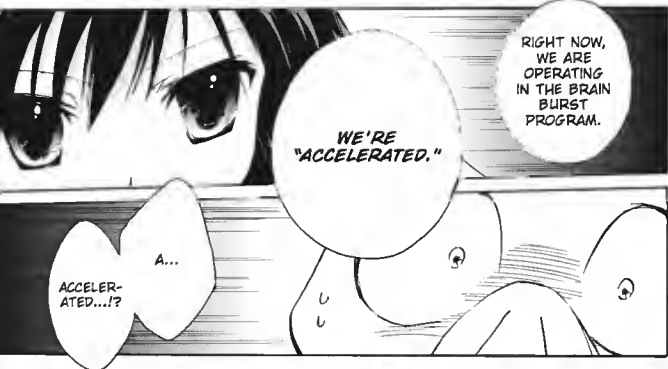








FULL
DIVE!?
OR...





LIKE
THE HOUR
HAND OF A
CLOCK...

IT IS
MOVING VERY
SLOWLY,
CRAWLING
FORWARD.

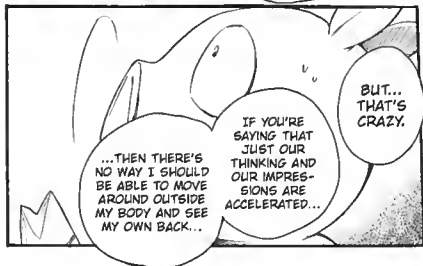
THIS
FIST...



YOU
LEARN FAST.
THAT'S
EXACTLY
IT.

A-ANYWAY,
THIS ISN'T AN
OUT-OF-BODY
EXPERIENCE.

IT'S
ACTUALLY ALL
HAPPENING IN
OUR HEADS...
IS THAT IT?



...THEN THERE'S
NO WAY I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO MOVE
AROUND OUTSIDE
MY BODY AND SEE
MY OWN BACK...

IF YOU'RE
SAYING THAT
JUST OUR
THINKING AND
OUR IMPRES-
SIONS ARE
ACCELERATED...

BUT...
THAT'S
CRAZY.



IF WE
WAITED
LIKE THIS,
AT SOME
POINT...

...IT WOULD
SINK SLOWLY
INTO YOUR
CHEEK.

Y-YOU'RE
KIDDING!!



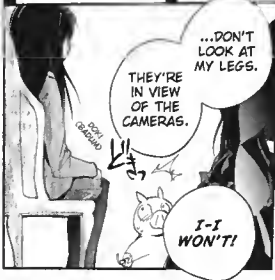


THIS
BLUE
WORLD IS
THE REAL
WORLD IN
REAL TIME,
BUT...

...IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
WOULD SEE
DIRECTLY
WITH YOUR
EYES.

IT'S A
3-D IMAGE
RECONSTRUCTED
FROM IMAGES
CAPTURED BY
SEVERAL SOCIAL
CAMERAS IN THE
LOUNGE...

...AND OUR
BRAINS ARE
SEEING IT
THROUGH OUR
NEUROLINKERS.



THEY'RE
IN VIEW
OF THE
CAMERAS.

...DON'T
LOOK AT
MY LEGS.

I-I
WON'T!



JITO
(STARE)

AH!



WHICH IS
NO POINT IN
TRYING TO LOOK
UP THE SKIRT
OF THAT GIRL
THERE.

R-
RIGHT.



USING OUR
AVATARS, WE'RE
LOOKING AROUND
US AND TALKING
VIA THE DIRECT
CONNECTION,
RIGHT?

...THIS
IS A 3-D
VERSION OF
THE REAL
WORLD
IN REAL
TIME.

S-SO
THEN...

RIGHT.
THAT'S
EXACTLY
IT.

...WHAT
EXACTLY
IS...

... "ACCELER-
ATED"?

OKAY...
I GET
THE BASIC
LOGIC OF
IT...

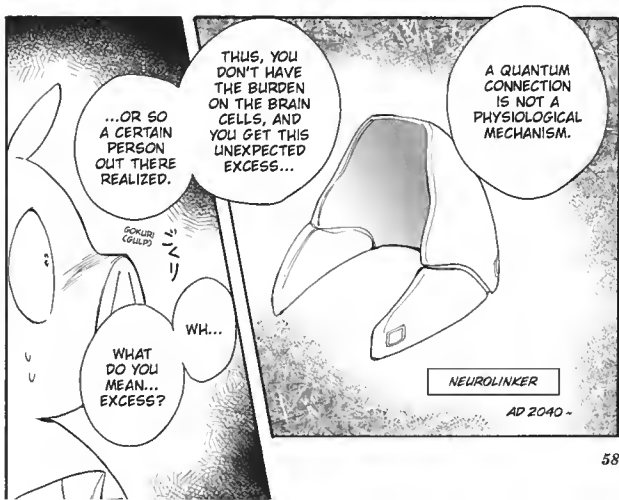
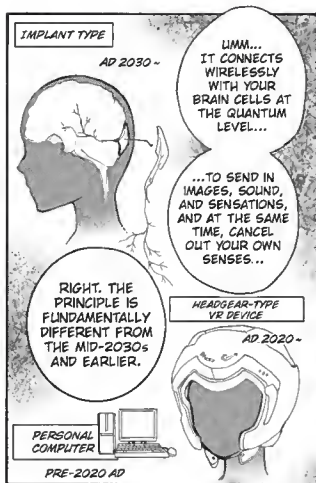
—
BUT.

WHAT
I REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW
IS...

I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF
NEUROLINKERS
EQUIPPED...

...WITH A
FUNCTION
THAT STOPS
TIME LIKE
THIS...!!

—HMM.



—AND HUMAN
BRAINS
WORK THE
SAME WAY.

YES...YOU
OVERCLOCKED
THE SIGNAL,
WHICH CARVED
UP TIME...

YOU
PROBABLY
KNOW WHAT
THEY CALLED
THE BASIC
OPERATING
FREQUENCY OF
THE COMPU-
TERS.

THE...
BASE
CLOCK?

...LIKE A
PENDULUM
ON THE
MOTHERBOARD
TO RUN THE
CPU.

WHAT!?

GYU
(SQUEEZE)

HA-HA...

N-NO
WAY!!

WHERE
IS THIS
PENDULUM
INSIDE US
THEN!?

HERE.

TON
(CRAT)

DOCKIN
(CHUUMPO)

RIGHT
NOW, YOUR
CLOCK IS
A LITTLE
FASTER.

—YOU
PROBABLY
GET IT
ALREADY.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING!?

WH...

KAAAAA
(GAAAH)



IT'S
YOUR
HEART!!

YOUR
HEART'S
NOT MERELY
A PUMP
SENDING OUT
BLOOD.

THE BEATING
OF YOUR HEART
MAKES IT THE
BASIC DEVICE
DETERMINING
THE DRIVING
SPEED OF YOUR
THOUGHTS.

MY...

...HEART?

THIS IS
BECAUSE...

...YOUR
THOUGHTS—
YOUR AWARENESS
OF THE SITUATION,
YOUR JUDGMENT.

...YOU NEED
TO "ACCEL-
ERATE"...

LIKE A
RACE CAR
DRIVER.

...YOUR
HEARTBEAT
WILL SPEED
UP DEPENDING
ON THE
SITUATION.

FOR
INSTANCE,
WHEN YOU
TRY TO
STOP YOUR
BODY...



...AND
SENDING
IT TO OUR
BRAINS.

RIGHT
NOW, IN
THIS EXACT
MOMENT...

...OUR
NEUROLINKERS
ARE AMPLIFYING
THE CLOCK
GENERATED
BY A SINGLE
HEARTBEAT...



A...
THOUSAND
FOLD...

...AT A
RATE OF
MORE
THAN A
THOUSAND-
FOLD!!

IN FACT,
IT'S DOING
SO...



GAN
CAUGHT!

AAH!?

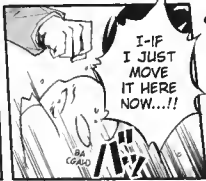
IT'S
CLOSER
THAN
BEFORE!?

...THAT
YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
BE SENT
FLYING.

I GOT
CAUGHT
UP IN
EXPLAINING
THINGS, AND
I FORGOT...



UNFOR-
TUNATELY, YOU
CAN'T. IN A
CERTAIN SENSE,
IT'S NOT REAL.



I-IF
I JUST
MOVE
IT HERE
NOW....!!

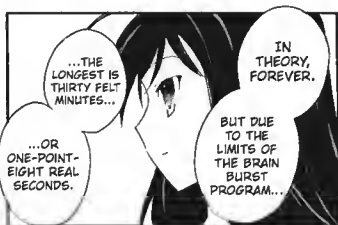


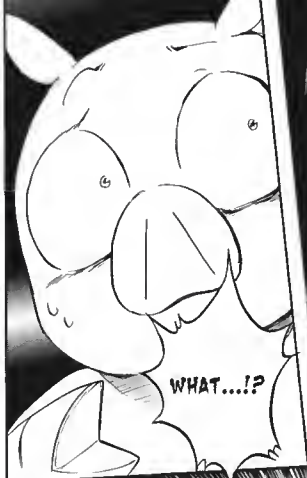
OH!
SORRY.



ONE
SECOND OF
REALITY IS
A THOUSAND
SECONDS...
IN OTHER
WORDS...

...YOU'RE
EXPERIENCING
SIXTEEN
MINUTES
AND FORTY
SECONDS...





WHAT...!?



DON'T
AVOID IT.

BUT.



—I'M
ASKING
YOU...

IT'S
GOING TO
HURT...!!

I-I
DON'T
WANT
TO GET
HIT!

HURT
WHAT?

...WHETHER
IT'S GOING
TO HURT...

...YOUR
BODY
OR YOUR
MIND.....

.....
.....!!!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
"WHAT"?

??



...HE HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH BEFORE NOW.

SO THEN THERE ARE TWO REASONS WHY...



NO.

N...



...BY THIS STUDENT, ARAYA.

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME YOU HAVE BEEN PUNCHED...



...BEYOND THE VIEW OF THE SOCIAL CAMERAS...

...THAT ARAYA HAS CLEVERLY STAGED THE SCENES OF HIS VIOLENCE AND EXTORTION...

AND THE OTHER IS...

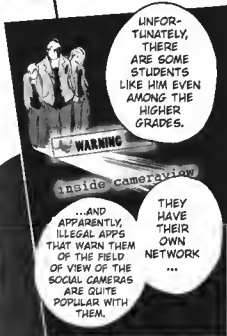
...THAT YOU HAVE JUST MEEKLY ACCEPTED HIS BEHAVIOR.

ONE IS, OF COURSE ...



THAT LOT WOULD NEVER GIVE THEMSELVES AWAY IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS.

HE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW THAT— HE WOULD'VE BEEN ON GUARD UNTIL NOW.



UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SOME STUDENTS LIKE HIM EVEN AMONG THE HIGHER GRADES.

...AND APPARENTLY, ILLEGAL APPS THAT WARN THEM OF THE FIELD OF VIEW OF THE SOCIAL CAMERAS ARE QUITE POPULAR WITH THEM.

THEY HAVE THEIR OWN NETWORK ...



...AND IS
ACTING OUT
IN VIOLENCE
HERE IN THIS
LOUNGE WITH
ALL THESE
CAMERAS.

AT MY
EARLIER
PROVOCATION,
HE HAS
FORGOTTEN
HIMSELF...

...HE
IS STILL
A CHILD,
AFTER
ALL.

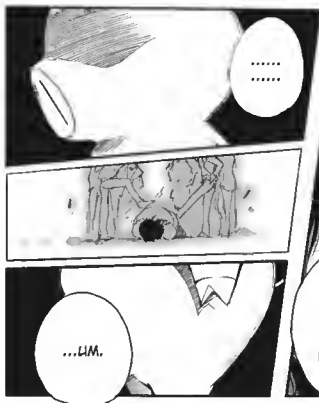
BUT...



THIS
IS YOUR
CHANCE
...

...HARU-
YUKI-
KUN.

UNDER-
STAND?



.....
.....

...UM.

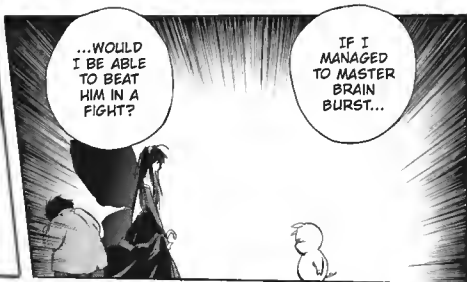


IT WOULD
BE EASY TO
DODGE THIS
PUNCH.

BUT
IF YOU
DO, ARAYA
WILL COME
TO HIS
SENSES
...

YOUR
OPPORTUNITY
TO PUNISH
HIM WILL ONCE
AGAIN REcede
EVER FURTHER
FROM VIEW...

...AND
RUN OFF.



...WOULD
I BE ABLE
TO BEAT
HIM IN A
FIGHT?

IF I
MANAGED
TO MASTER
BRAIN
BURST...



...WHICH
MEANS YOU
HAVE A POWER
GREATLY
EXCEEDING
THAT OF THE
UNACCEL-
ERATED.

YOU'RE
ALREADY
A "BURST
LINKER"
...

YOU
PROBABLY
COULD.



IS THERE
SOME
REASON
I WOULDN'T
BE?

IF...

...YOU
WERE SO
INCLINED...





T-TO
THE
RIGHT...

...OH!!

DON'T
FORGET TO
TURN YOUR
HEAD TO THE
RIGHT AS HIS
FIST HITS
YOU.

ONCE THE
ACCELERATION
RUNS OUT,
YOU LEAP
BACK TO THE
RIGHT WITH
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE GOT.



NOW I'M
GOING TO
TEACH YOU THE
COMMAND TO
RELEASE THE
ACCELERATION.

ARE YOU
READY?

Y-
YES...



BE
STRONG—

**"BURST
OUT"!!**



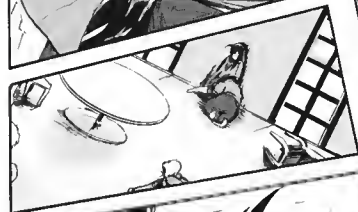
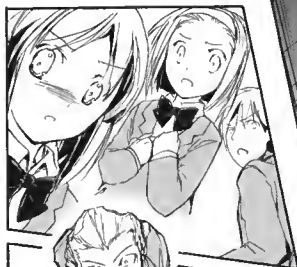
I-I
CAN'T!!

IF I JUMP
FROM HERE
TO THERE,
I'LL END UP
SLAMMING
INTO YOU.

IT'S NOT
A PROBLEM.
THIS WAY
IS MORE
EFFECTIVE.

DON'T
WORRY, I'LL
MAKE SURE
TO DODGE. I
WON'T GET
HURT.





GATA
QUATTERO

...MAKE
SURE TO
GET OUT
OF THE
WAY—!!

GATSON
(THUD)

HA
(GASP)



AH...

AAAAH....!!

Don't
move!!



B-but
you're
bleeding...!!



Don't
worry.
It's just
a little
cut.

I told you, aim
to maximize
the effect.

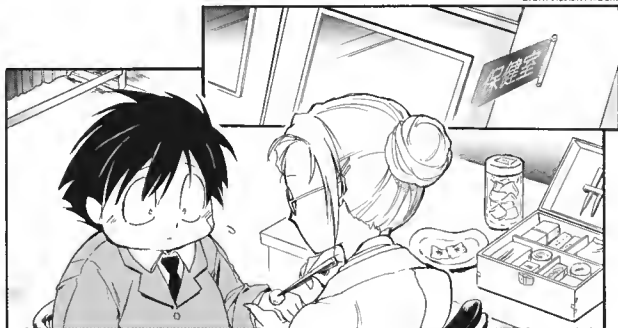


...deal
with Araya
again.

After
this, you'll
never have
to...



SIGN: HEALTH ROOM





Oops...
I forgot
to tell
you.



Do not
take off your
Neurolinker
before you
come to school
tomorrow.

And you
can't make
a global
connection.

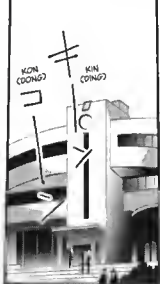
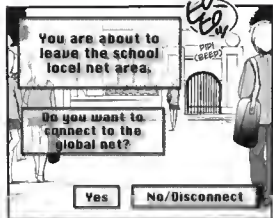


Got it?
Under no
circum-
stances.



WHAT
WAS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN.....?

PROMISE—











SFX: TSUN (NUDGE) TSUN



I DON'T
WANT TO
RUIN THIS
RELATIONSHIP.

AFTER ALL,
THE THREE
OF US CAN
TALK LIKE
THIS NOW
JUST LIKE
ALWAYS.

HA
HA
HA
DON'T
SAY THAT!

BUT
HEY,
HARU.

MY
CHOICE
TWO
YEARS AGO
WASN'T A
MISTAKE.

—IT'S
BETTER
THIS
WAY.







**AFTER
I LEFT...**

ABOUT
HOW THEY
CAN HELP
ME...



...THEY
PROBABLY
TALKED
ABOUT ME
AGAIN.

ABOUT
HOW THEY
CAN HELP
ME...



...THEY
PROBABLY
TALKED
ABOUT ME
AGAIN.

...ARAYA
IS FINALLY
OUT OF THE
PICTURE.

JUST
WHEN...

A black and white illustration of a man with short hair, wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a dark shirt. He is looking down and slightly to his left with a somber expression. The background is plain white.

...ARAYA
IS FINALLY
OUT OF THE
PICTURE.

JUST
WHEN...

A man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a dark shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking down and slightly to his left with a somber expression. The background is plain white.

H-HHEY!

TA TA TA TA TA TA TA

HARU....!!

Y
ILY
D
ME
.

ST
N...

THE ONE
PERSON
I MOST
WANTED
TO
KEEP IT
FROM—

HE
KNEW
ABOUT
IT ALL
ALONG.

AAAAAAAAA...!!

PICTURE.

THE ONE PERSON I MOST WANTED TO KEEP IT FROM—

AAAAAAH...!!

HE KNEW ABOUT IT ALL ALONG.

THE ONE
PERSON
I MOST
WANTED
TO
KEEP IT
FROM—

HE
KNEW
ABOUT
IT ALL
ALONG.

AAAAAAAAA...!!

PLEASE!
STOP
IT...!!



OW!!
OW...!!



DON'T
LOOK
AT ME
WITH
PITY
LIKE
THAT!!

STOP...!!

TAKU...
CHIYU...!!



ENOUGH.

I HATE
IT
HERE.





A
SINGLE
BIRD...

SOARING
LIGHTLY.



...WANT
TO BE UP
THERE
TOO.

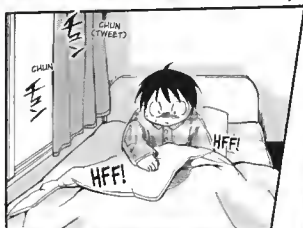


HIGHER.
FARTHER.

TO THE
OTHER
SIDE.



I
WANT
TO
FLY.



IS
THAT
YOUR
WISH?





WHA...!!?



AH!

...HUH!?

WHY
ALL BY
ITSELF
-!?

WHAT
THE -!?

"ACCELER-
ATION"!?



WHAT IS
THIS...

WHA...

...THE
CENTURY
END STAGE!
IT'S BEEN
FOREVER.

LUCKYYYY...!!



HERE COMES
A NEW CHALLENGER!

WHA.....
.....!!

GOOOO
オオオ





AND AS
A SPECIAL
BONUS...

...MY
OPPONENT
IS A SHINY
NEWB.

DOURURUN
VIRG-VIRPERO

SUPER
LUCKYYYY!!!

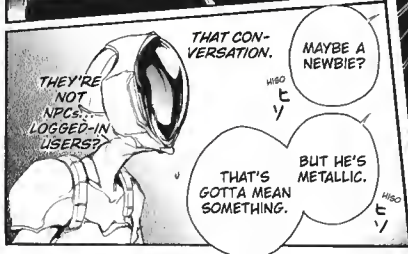


CHAPTER

#03



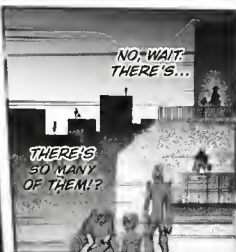






STARING
AT ME....!!

AND
THEY'RE...



NO, WAIT.
THERE'S...

THERE'S
SO MANY
OF THEM!?



Ah...



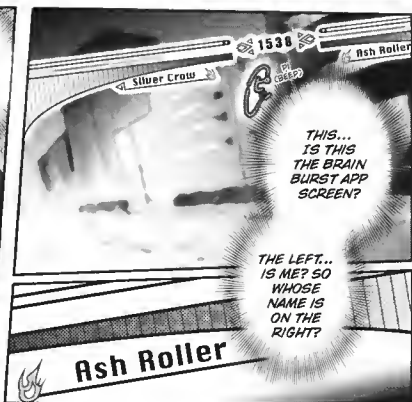
WHAT?
ARE THEY
WAITING FOR
SOMETHING?

BUT
THEY'RE
NOT
COMING ANY
CLOSER...



NO...
WAIT. THIS
LAYOUT.

I KNOW THIS
CONFIGURATION,
I TOTALLY KNOW
IT...!!



THIS...
IS THIS
THE BRAIN
BURST APP
SCREEN?

THE LEFT...
IS ME? SO
WHOSE
NAME IS
ON THE
RIGHT?

Ash Roller

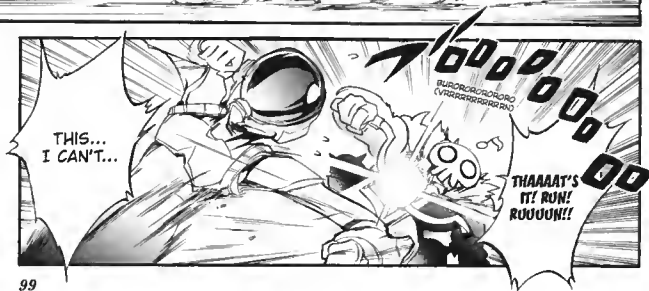
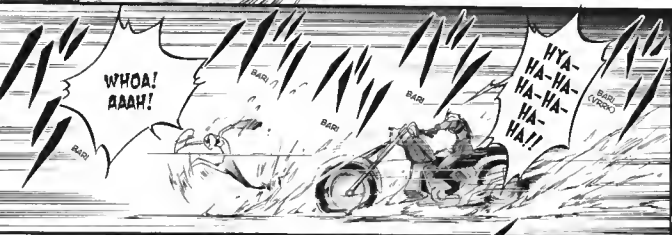
THE
CENTURY
END STAGE!
IT'S BEEN
FOREVER.

LUCKYYYY!

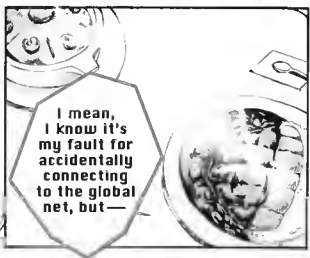
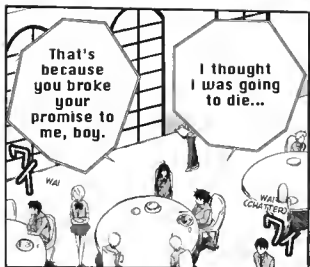
WHAT IS
THAT!?

HUH...
AH...

Ash Roller









...a
fighting
game.

It's
just...



Hmm...
I think you
need to phrase
it slightly
differently.

Re-creating
the world as
in stages...
And you
go with a
fighter!?

The genre
was already
obsolete
thirty years
ago!!

...this
amazing
acceleration
technology!

I mean,
think about
what you
could do
with...



Wh-
what
do you
mean?

I should
probably
explain the
rest to you
in the
field.

Accelerate
now and the
two of us
will fight.



Huh?
Now!?



We Burst
Linkers are not
accelerating to
play fighting
games.

Instead,
we fight so
that we can
continue to be
accelerated.



All right.
Let's go.

O-okay...

I'm not
saying we're
going to fight
for real. We'll
just let the
time run out
and end in
a draw.



HMM...
A TWILIGHT
STAGE?



YOU
PULLED
A RARE
ONE.



HH-
HH.

HH—



BURST
LINK!!









...BUT YOUR FEELINGS OF INFERIORITY.

WHAT THE PROGRAM READS IS NOT YOUR IDEAL IMAGE...



GAN (SHOCK)

ガン

WHAT? THEN...

...I WISHED FOR THIS WEAK, SMOOTH BODY?

ALTHOUGH I DO THINK IT'D BE BETTER IF I LOST A LITTLE WEIGHT...



SO... THEN...

DOES THAT MEAN...

...BRAIN BURST ALSO MADE YOUR AVATAR?



WHAT? P-PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.

YOU COULD'VE ENDED UP WITH THAT PINK PIG. YOU KNOW.

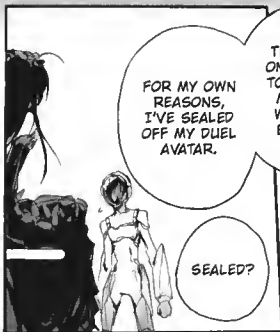
ALTHOUGH I LIKE THAT PIG.

I DON'T LIKE IT.

...NO, I...

THAT'S THE IMAGE OF YOUR INFERIORITY COMPLEX?

BUT IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...



FOR MY OWN
REASONS,
I'VE SEALED
OFF MY DUEL
AVATAR.

THIS IS...
ONE I PUT
TOGETHER
MYSELF
WITH AN
EDITOR.

SEALED?



THE
EPITOME
OF
HIDEOUS.

UNFORTU-
NATELY, MY
DUEL
AVATAR IS
UGLY.



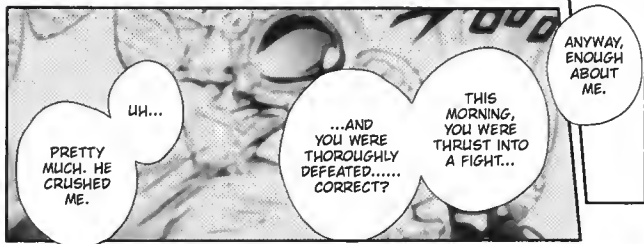
ALTHOUGH
THAT'S NOT
THE REASON
I'VE SEALED
IT OFF...I'LL
TELL YOU WHY
SOMEDAY.

WHEN
THE TIME
COMES.

KUROYUKIHIME-
SENPAI.....?

.....

54
(SHF)



ACCELERATE
ONE TIME...

...LOSE
ONE POINT.

PUT SIMPLY,
BURST POINTS
ARE THE
NUMBER OF
TIMES WE CAN
ACCELERATE.

WHAT!?

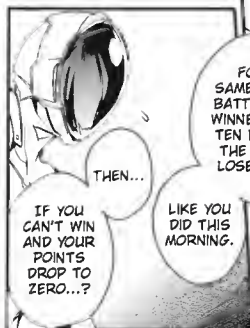
NO,
WE'RE
NOT.

THOSE ARE
THE VERY
THINGS...

...THAT SEND
US INTO THIS
MERCILESS
BATTLEFIELD!!

ARE WE
CHARGED
REAL
MONEY?

S-SO
HOW
DO YOU
CHARGE
THEM!?



THEN...

IF YOU
CAN'T WIN
AND YOUR
POINTS
DROP TO
ZERO...?

LIKE YOU
DID THIS
MORNING.

FOR A
SAME-LEVEL
BATTLE, THE
WINNER GETS
TEN POINTS,
THE LOSER
LOSES TEN.

THE WAY
TO GAIN
POINTS...

...IS TO
WIN IN
MATCHES.



IT'S
SIMPLE.

YOU
LOSE...

...BRAIN
BURST AND
ACCELERATION
FOREVER.

!!



ACCELERATION
IS EXTREMELY
POWERFUL...

KATSUKI
CHIKAO

LOSE
BRAIN
BURST
...





...TO BE
AWAY
FROM
YOU—

I DON'T
WANT...

I STILL
HAVE TO
REPAY
YOU...!!

I-I...

...OH?



...AND
PULLED
ME OUT
OF THAT
HELL...



YOU GAVE
ME BRAIN
BURST...



...CHECK
MY SQUASH
GAME SCORE
AND STUFF...

HMM...
AN
ACCURATE
INFERENCE.



SOME
OBJECTIVE
THAT WAS
WORTH
TAKING THE
TIME TO...

THERE
MUST BE
SOMETHING
YOU WANT ME
TO DO.





I REALLY
AM...
I'M THE
WORST.

...ONLY
TWO FRIENDS
I HAVE. I RUN
AWAY AT THE
DROP OF
A HAT.



I...

I GET
JEALOUS
OF THE...



I...I'M
ACTUALLY
NOT A
SOMEONE
WHO GETS
TO TALK TO
YOU LIKE
THIS.

I'M A BLOB,
A CRYBABY...

SERIOUSLY,
WHAT AM
I SAYING
HERE!?

BUT I-I
WOULDN'T
EVEN,
I MEAN...

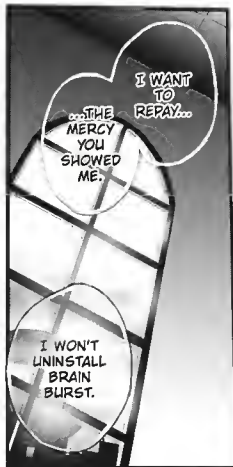
...AND
I KNOW
IT'S JUST
BECAUSE
I WAS KINDA
GOOD AT
THAT GAME.

...
REACHED
OUT TO
ME...

...YOU,
THE GIRL
EVERYONE
LOVES...

EVEN
SO...

I CAN'T
STOP
TALKING...!!



I WANT
TO
REPAY...

...THE
MERCY
YOU
SHOWED
ME.

I WON'T
UNINSTALL
BRAIN
BURST.



SO...SO...
THAT'S
WHY I...

...WANT TO
LIVE UP
TO YOUR
EXPECTATIONS.

WHA...

WHAT THE—
I SHOULD'VE
...

FURU
(TREMBLES)

FURU

KAAAA
GAAAA

FURU

FURU

...JUST
SAID THAT
LAST
PART!!

I'LL
FIGHT...

...AS A
BURST
LINKER...!!

BOSO
WHISPERO

....CY?

FURURU

FURURU

FURU

ALL THAT
MAKES IT
SOUND LIKE
MR. SELF-
CONSCIOUS
HERE GOT THE
WRONG IDEA
ABOUT THINGS.
AAAAAAH...!!



DON'T USE
WORDS LIKE
THAT...!!

MERCY?

AH!



SENPAI

...FEEL
THAT FAR
TO YOU?

DO THESE
TWO VIRTUAL
METERS...

YOU'RE
THE ONE
...

...CREATING
A DISTANCE.



I DON'T
NEED
ANYTHING
ELSE.



...YOU
SAVED
ME.



I'M
SORRY.

THEY
DO...



IT IS TRUE
THAT I HAVE
A TROUBLING
PROBLEM.

I
GRATEFULLY
ACCEPT
YOUR AID.

I'D LIKE
YOUR
ASSISTANCE
IN RESOLVING
THE MATTER.

MATOU
(KLAND)

OF
COURSE...
WHAT DO
YOU NEED?



.....
GUY
(GSP)

...IS
THAT
SO...

.....



BUT IT'S NOT
BECAUSE YOUR
OPPONENT WAS
STRONGER.

YOU WERE
CRUSHED IN
YOUR FIRST
FIGHT.

YOU SIMPLY
DIDN'T KNOW
HOW TO
FIGHT.



...I NEED
YOU TO
LEARN HOW
DUELS
WORK.

FIRST
OF ALL
...



HUH...?
WHAT ARE
WE GOING
TO DO?

THUS, THE
NEXT LECTURE
WILL BE A
HANDS-ON
LESSON.



...AND GET
YOUR TEN
POINTS
BACK.

...WE'RE
GOING
TO GO...

OBVI-
OUSLY
...



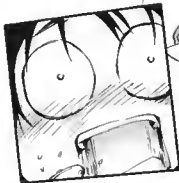
I TOLD
HIM
I LIKED
HIM...

...AND
HE BLEW
ME OFF.

HMM...

TO BE
BLUNT...

KACHA
CCHAKO







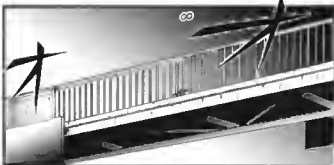
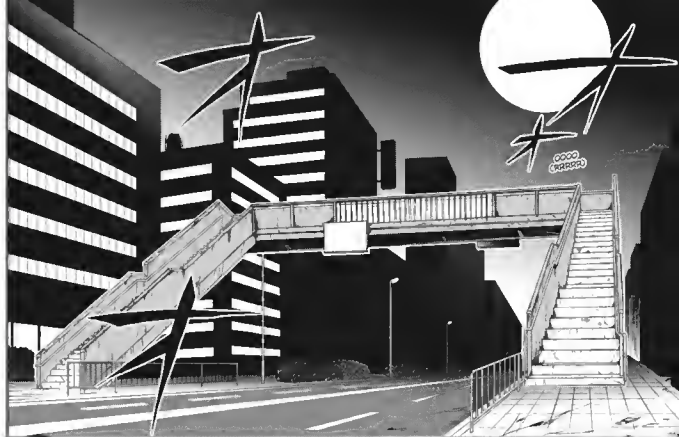




—GOOD
LUCK.

THIS IS
YOUR REAL
DEBUT
BATTLE...

...SILVER
CROW.





AFTER
GOING
OVER THE
INFORMATION
YOU GAVE
ME...

...I'VE
DETERMINED
THAT ASH
ROLLER HAS TWO
SIGNIFICANT
WEAK POINTS.

SHO
GARD...
!!



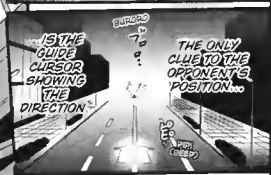
NOW!!

...I
HAVE TO
STRIKE
FIRST!!



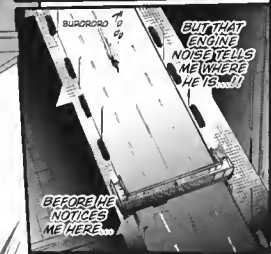
THE
FIRST IS
THAT...

...HE
MAKES A
GREAT DEAL
OF NOISE.



IS THE
GUIDE
CURSOR
SHOWING
THE
DIRECTION...

THE ONLY
CLUE TO THE
OPPONENT'S
POSITION...



BUT THAT
ENGINE
NOISE TELLS
ME WHERE
HE IS...!!

BEFORE HE
NOTICES
ME HERE...

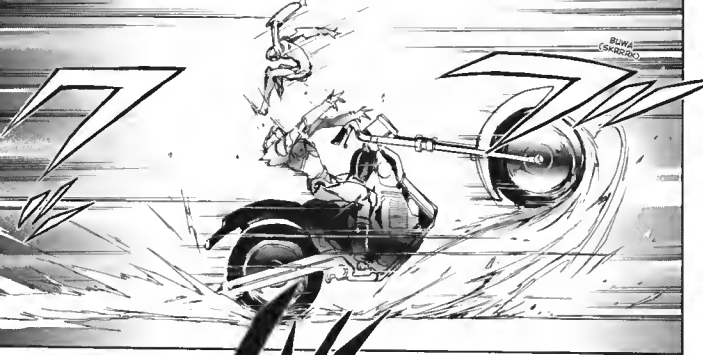
ВУДЖИКО
(УВРЕЖ)

ТАААААА

НИИ!?

ОУААА...!!

GO
OKURO





THAT'S THE
STRATEGY
KUROYUKIHIME-
SENPAI CAME
UP WITH...!!

NOW THAT
HE'S TAKEN
MORE
DAMAGE
THAN ME,
I CAN
JUST...

...RETREAT
TO HIGH
GROUND AND
WAIT FOR
TIME TO RUN
OUT TO WIN.

I'LL BE
IN THE
GALLERY
TOO.

ALTHOUGH
I WON'T BE
ABLE TO
HELP YOU.

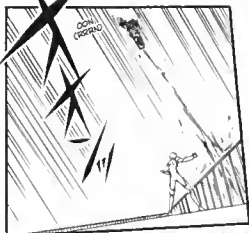
SHE'S...
KUROYUKIHIME-
SENPAI'S
PROBABLY
HERE TOO.....

HMM?

TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM THIS
MORNING. HUH?
WONDER WHO
HIS
"GUARDIAN"
IS.

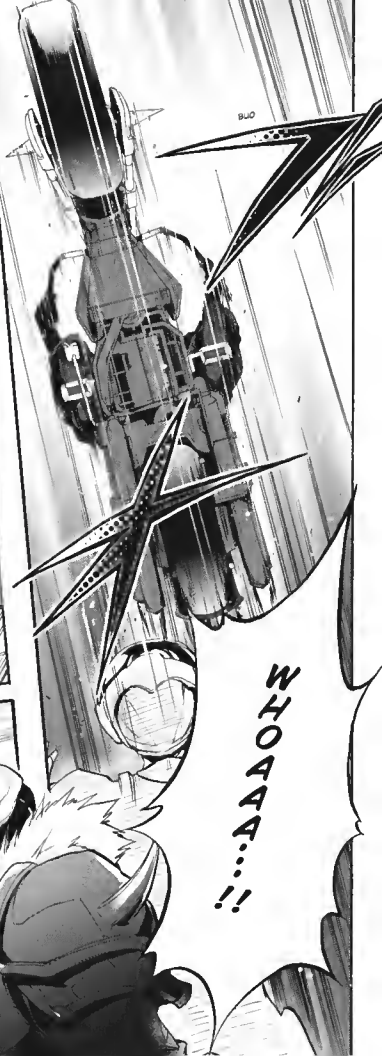
WOW, HE
CAN PLAY,
AFTER ALL.

THE
GALLERY...



AFTER
I BEAT
YOU THIS
MORNING
...

... I WENT
UP TO
LEVEL
TWO.





AND DAMN,
I WAS SO
RIGHT!

IN THE
END, I WENT
WITH THE
ABILITY TO
DRIVE UP
WALLS,
GET IT?

AND I
WAS HAVING
SUUUUUUCH
TROUBLE
DECIDING ON
MY LEVEL-UP
BONUS, YOU
KNOW?



AND
YOU...

IS...

...ARE HELLA
UMUCKY-
YYYYYY!!

IS THIS FOR
REAL....!!?





NI
GRIND

DO

HEH-
HEH...

SCARED
OF MY
SUUUUUUPER-
COOOOOOL
NEW POWER,
HUH?

DO

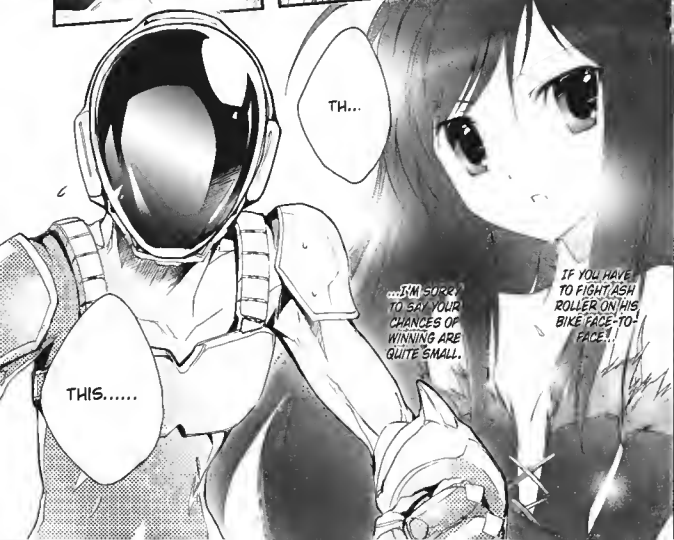
HOW IS
THAT EVEN
POSSIBLE!?

HE
CLIMBED
THE WALL
...

DO
CYRRO

CHAPTER

#04

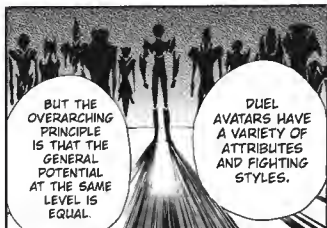


TH...

THIS.....

...I'M SORRY
TO SAY YOUR
CHANCES OF
WINNING ARE
QUITE SMALL.

IF YOU HAVE
TO FIGHT ASH
ROLLER ON HIS
BIKE FACE-TO-
FACE!!



BUT THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE IS THAT THE GENERAL POTENTIAL AT THE SAME LEVEL IS EQUAL.

DUEL AVATARS HAVE A VARIETY OF ATTRIBUTES AND FIGHTING STYLES.



MM.

SPECIAL ATTACK?

GO AHEAD AND OPEN YOUR BATTLE HISTORY.

BECAUSE —



YOU SIMPLY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT.

BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOUR OPPONENT WAS STRONGER.

YOU WERE CRUSHED IN YOUR FIRST FIGHT.



MM. LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

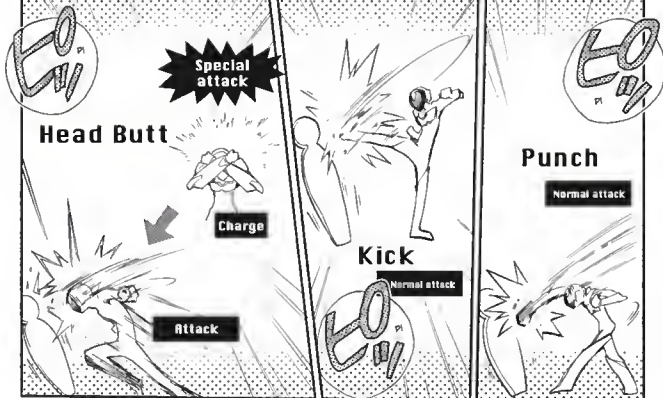
S-SO THEN... I MUST HAVE A STRONG SPECIAL ATTACK!?

YOU CAN CHECK IT IN YOUR STATUS.



BUT HE WAS SO STRONG

...HE WAS LEVEL ONE TOO.



NORMAL
ATTACKS PUNCH
AND KICK...
AND ALL I HAVE
FOR SPECIAL
ATTACK IS JUST
A HEAD BUTT.



BIKU
(SHUDDERS)

YOU...
IDIOT!!

YOU TAKE ONE
LOOK AT THIS
AVATAR AND IT'S
LEARLY NO GOOD.
I'M SORRY I CAN'T
LIVE UP TO YOUR
EXPECTATIONS.
YOU CAN KIND
OF LEAVE ME BE.
JUST THINK OF
ME AS A—

N-NO, IT'S
FINE. I MEAN,
I EXPECTED
THIS....!!

SH-SHE'S
SHOCKED
....!!



HOWEVER...
WHEN IT COMES
TO BRAIN BURST,
I HAVE OVER
SIX YEARS MORE
EXPERIENCE
THAN YOU.

AS
JUNIOR
HIGH
STUDENTS,
WE'RE ON
THE SAME
LEVEL.

...I WON'T
TELL YOU
HOW TO LIVE
YOUR LIFE.

SIGH...

...YOU
MOST
CERTAINLY
HAVE SOME
STRENGTH
SOME-
WHERE...

IN
WHICH
CASE...

WERE
YOU NOT
LISTENING
...?

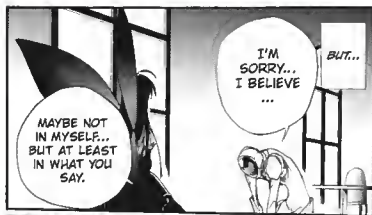
...WHEN
I TOLD YOU
THAT ALL THE
DUEL AVATARS
HAVE EQUAL
POTENTIAL?

OH...

...TO
COMPEN-
SATE!!

I ACTUALLY
JUST HAVE
THREE
ATTACKS—

B.
BUT...





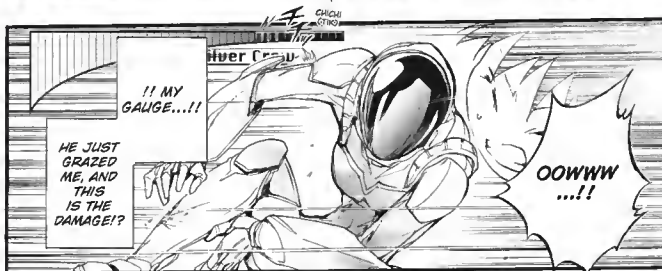
BUOO

GATSU
CYWACKO

WHOA....!!

BUOO
(GIGAWATT)

!!



!! MY
GAUGE....!!

HE JUST
GRAZED
ME, AND
THIS
IS THE
DAMAGE!?

OOWWWW
...!!



SUBORDO
OVERLOAD

IN OTHER
WORDS...

BUT
YOU'RE
WEAK
AGAINST
STRIKE
ATTACKS.

YOUR SILVER
IS FAIRLY
RARE AND
STRONG.

DUEL AVATARS
HAVE
ATTRIBUTES
AND
COMPATIBILITY.

...YOU'RE
POWERLESS
AGAINST ASH
ROLLER'S
ATTACK.

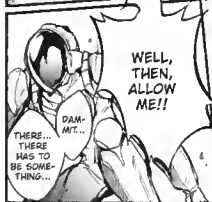
FROM THAT, WE
CAN INFER HIS
ATTRIBUTE IS A
CLOSE-RANGE
STRIKE TYPE.

YOUR
OPPONENT'S
"ASH" IS
BLUE CLOSE
TO GREEN
WITH LOW
SATURATION.

DID YOU NOT
NOTICE THAT
THE AVATARS
ALWAYS HAVE A
COLOR WORD IN
THEIR NAMES?



HA-HA-HA!
NO FIGHT
LEFT IN
YOU?



THERE...
THERE
HAS TO
BE SOME-
THING...

DAM-
MIT...

WELL,
THEN,
ALLOW
ME!!



SO
THAT'S
WHAT
SHE
SAID!!

SO THERE'S
JUST ONE
RESPONSE
IN THE EVENT
YOU END UP IN
A FACE-TO-
FACE BATTLE.

RUN
FOR
YOUR
LIFE.



EVEN IF
IT'S JUST
CALLED A
HEAD
BUTT...

...IT MIGHT
HAVE THE
POWER
TO CRUSH
ROCKS OR
SOME-
THING!!

MY
SPECIAL
ATTACK!!

GU
(COLENGH)

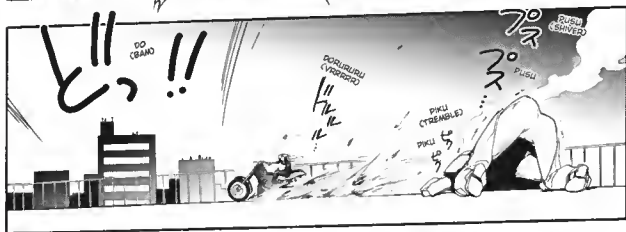
AH!



BLN
(FWGN)

— YOU
CAN DO
THIS!!

— R I G H T !!





KUROYUKIHIME-
SENPAI...?



AH...



THINK
...

I HAVE
TO
THINK.



THEN...

...I
CAN'T
EVEN
BE HER
PAWN!!

NO...
YOU
CAN'T
GIVE UP.

HM
.....?

IF
I LOSE
...

...
THEN I'LL
STRUGGLE
AND FIGHT.

I'LL MAKE
IT UGLY.
—IF
I CAN'T
DO THAT
MUCH...



HEY! HEY!
WHAT'S
UP? COME
OOOON!!

...THAT
BIKE ISN'T
JUST A
BUNCH OF
POLYGONS.

OVER-
WHELMING
DETAIL...

...AND
REALITY.

THERE HAS
TO BE A WEAK
POINT IN THIS
METICULOUS
REPRODUCTION!!

SO IN THE
CASE OF
THIS BRAIN
BURST...

GOT IT.
THAT'S
IT!!

THE MAIN
FEATURE OF
AN INTERNAL
COMBUSTION
ENGINE
BIKE...AND
ITS WEAK
POINT!!

YEEEAH!
HA-HA-HA-
HA! DANCE!
DANCE FOR
MEEEE!!

NOISY.
STINKS
LIKE
GAS.

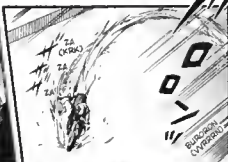
THE BIKE'S
FEATURES—

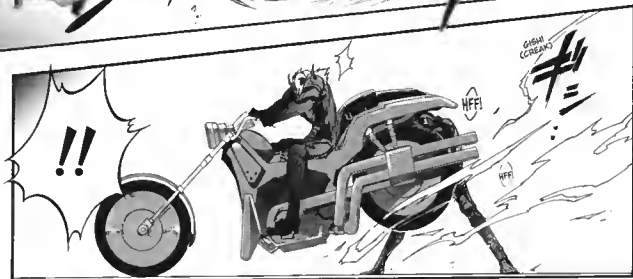
WHAT IF
THERE'S
OUT OF
GAS?
A HOLE IN THE
TANK—NO,
I CAN'T PULL
THAT OFF.

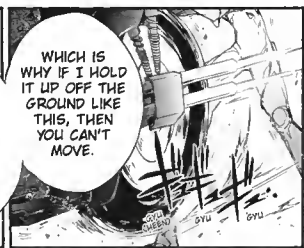
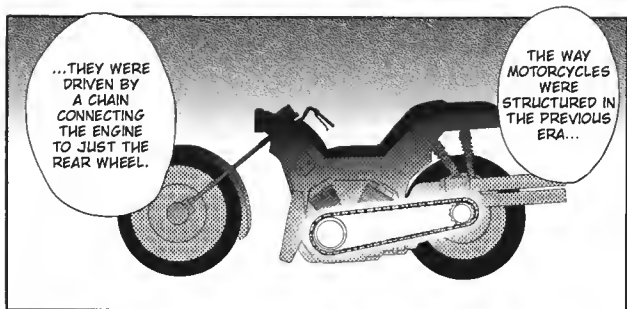
ISN'T THERE
ANYTHING
ELSE?
ANYTHING.

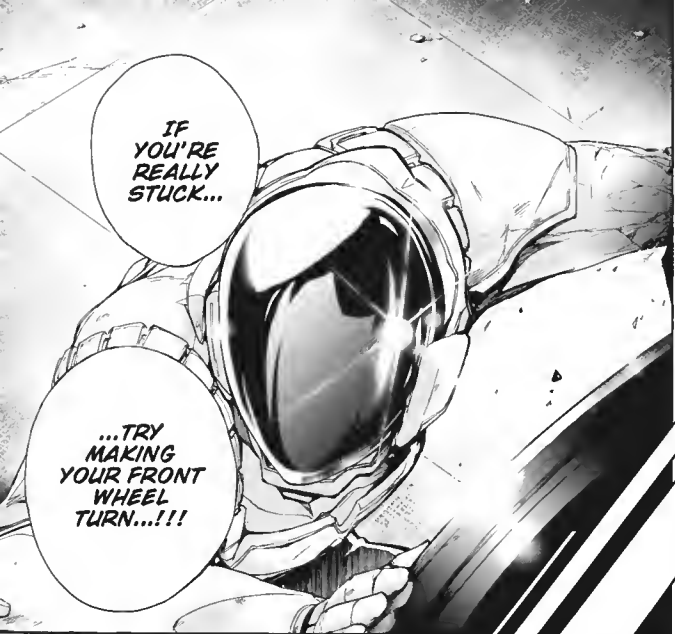
AH!













I HADN'T GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF ASH ROLLER'S BIKE AT ALL.

THAT WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME THAT WEAK POINT HAD BEEN ATTACKED. THANKS TO THAT QUICK THINKING OF YOUR AVATAR.







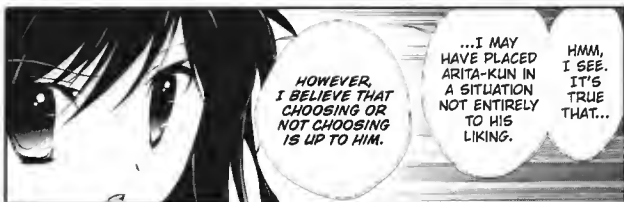




CAN'T YOU
SEE HE'S
CLEARLY
UNCOMFORT-
ABLE?

...STANDING
OUT SO
MUCH, BEING
STARED AT.

HARU
HATES THIS
KIND OF
THING...



HOWEVER,
I BELIEVE THAT
CHOOSING OR
NOT CHOOSING
IS UP TO HIM.

...I MAY
HAVE PLACED
ARITA-KUN IN
A SITUATION
NOT ENTIRELY
TO HIS
LIKING.

HMM,
I SEE.
IT'S
TRUE
THAT...



FRIENDS,
HMM?
...IN
THAT
CASE...

MY...

...I RANK
SOMEWHAT
HIGHER.



I WONDER
IF YOU
HAVE ANY
RIGHT TO
BE SAYING
ANYTHING
HERE?

I DO!

I'VE BEEN
FRIENDS WITH
HARU LONGER
THAN ANYONE
AT THIS
SCHOOL.









W-WE ARE.

WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW, THOUGH, ARE YOU REALLY JUST PLAIN OLD FRIENDS?

ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER BEING YOUR BEST FRIEND ...



OH! ...UH, NO, IT'S KURASHIMA, CHIYURI KURASHIMA, GRADE SEVEN, CLASS A —

OH? ...YOU'RE ON A NICKNAME BASIS?

I KNOW.



OH, NOTHING. I JUST SAW AGAIN THE DEPTHS OF THE REAL WORLD.

...WHAT'S "HMMM"?

EVEN STILL... NO...MM, HMMMM.

...UH-HUH.



CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, STUCK WITH EACH OTHER KIND OF THING...

I MEAN, SHE HAS A BOYFRIEND.

SHE DOES?



WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO HER FOR DIFFERENT REASONS THAN I HAVE BEEN YOU.

I DID.

UM... BEFORE, DID YOU SAY YOU ALREADY KNEW CHIYU'S NAME?



IT'S MY TREAT.

ANYWAY, LET'S DISCUSS IT AT LENGTH OVER TEA.

IT'S DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO WHY I INVITED YOU TO THE ACCELERATED WORLD...

...I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT IN JUST A FEW WORDS.





The current
accelerated
world...

We
call them
"Legions"
.....

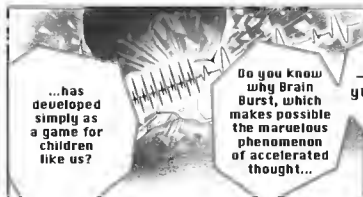
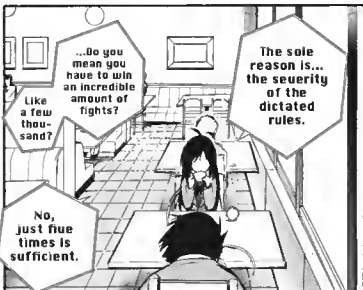
...is ruled
by six
enormous
Legions.

Named Blue,
Red, Yellow,
Green, Purple,
and White—

...are the
only six Burst
Linkers who
have reached
Level Nine.

And com-
manding
these...







Nothing as ambiguous as that.

Requirements? Like being good at games or something?

...how strict the requirements are for Brain Burst aptitude.

It is because of...

The most serious requirement...

...is having "continuously worn a quantum connection Neuralinker terminal from shortly after birth."

BU (GMP)

▶ APTITUDE ◀

...the oldest are a mere fifteen years old; i.e., there are no adult Burst Linkers.



... fifteen years ago. Which means...

The first-generation Neuralinkers went on the market...

Did they, as a result, plunge into bloody dispute?

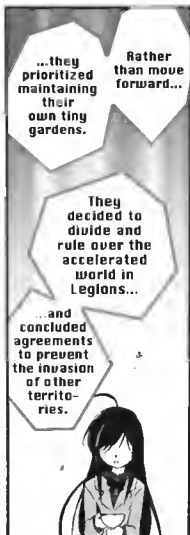
A system message then informed them of the brutal way to reach Level Ten.

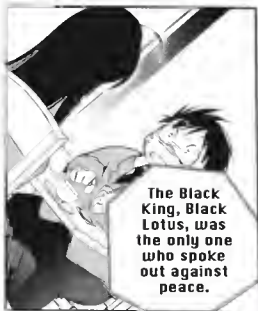
In summer two years ago, the young kings all reached Level Nine at very nearly the same time.

Because they are children, they will try to protect this privilege at all costs.

And because they are children, they share the same sweet fantasies.

—No.







The last night the seven kings met in one building...


...Although of course, we have never met in the real world.

...I GUESS THAT'S TO AVOID THREATS OR ATTACKS IN THE REAL WORLD...?

GIVEN THAT THE GAME IS ABOUT STEALING POINTS FROM EACH OTHER...

Burst Linkers must do their utmost to hide their real names and faces.

— I
CUT
HIS
HEAD
OFF!



The meeting that night took place in Battle Royale mode...

... connecting all of us as fighters in the same field.

The Red King caught me off guard...

... preaching friendship and insisting we stop fighting.

So I...



— Before
I knew it,
time was
up, and I
was linked
out.

...I was
also not
defeated.

...and
although
I couldn't
take
another
king...

Stirred
up by
madness,
I fought...

The
ability
to make
rational
judgments
went
out the
window.

— And I am
the worst
coward...

I have
the largest
bounty on
my head.

...I am
the biggest
traitor in the
accelerated
world.

...I've
focused
on running
and hiding.
Right
now...

In
the two
years
since
...

...far above
friendship,
above
honor...

Because
I put
it...

— Becoming
Level Ten...

...above
everything.

— Why...

...would
you...?



Whatever
it takes,
I have to
know.

I... I want
to know.

The
system
message
also told
us this.

Accelerating
your thinking,
you can
get money,
grades,
fame...

Is this really
the meaning
behind our duels?
Is this the
compensation
we seek, the
limit we can
reach...?

That
Burst Linkers
reaching
Level Ten
would have
the chance
to meet the
program
creator...

...and would
be told the
true meaning
behind the
existence of
Brain Burst,
as well as
its goal...

Isn't...
Isn't there
something
beyond
this...?

...I
GET
IT.

A LITTLE...
HONESTLY,
JUST A
TINY BIT...

...Isn't
there...
something
more...

Outside
this...
shell
called a
human
being...

AAH.



LIKE
BEING
ON THE
GROUND
WHERE
IT'S HARD
TO HOLD
ON...

...LOOKING
UP AT THE
DISTANT
SKY.

THAT KIND
OF BURNING
DESIRE—

Er
...

It's
fine if
you want
to quit
helping
me.

Perhaps
I'll sacrifice
even you at
some point
for my
objective.

Or maybe
you hate
me,
Haruyuki-
kun.

...So?

Are you
shocked?

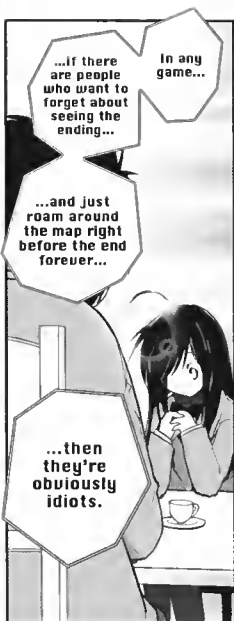


...it's only natural...

If there are any higher levels...

...to try for them.

— That's what I think.



...If there are people who want to forget about seeing the ending...

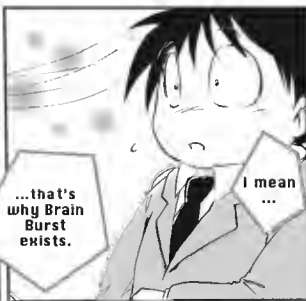
In any game...

...and just roam around the map right before the end forever...

...then they're obviously idiots.



It's waiting for someone to get there, right?



...that's why Brain Burst exists.

I mean ...



You're
already more
of a Burst
Linker than
I am.

— How
did this
happen?

AHA...
HA-HA-HA!

— Pft...

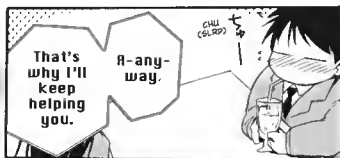
I get it...
Only natural
to aim for
it...
That's where
we are, is
it...?

I-it's
nothing to
laugh at!



Thank
you...

WH-
WHOA
...!!



That's
why I'll
keep
helping
you.

A-any-
way.

CHU
(SLOP)



I mean,
I want to
get there
one day
too...

...to
Level
Ten.



!!

SO
(SLOP)

— Haru-
yuki-kun.



The introductory bit ended up going long.

Right.



N-no, it's— Anyway.

...To get to the main part of it... please tell me why you invited me to the accelerated world.

I'm so glad from the bottom of my heart that I chose you.

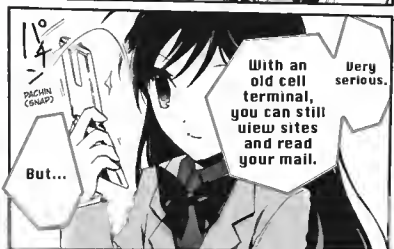


WHEN I WATCHED BEFORE, THAT WAS THROUGH THE SCHOOL NET.

...I haven't once connected my Neurolinker to the global net.

These two years...

Guh... A-are you serious!?



But...

With an old cell terminal, you can still view sites and read your mail.

Very serious.



As I told you...

...I managed to survive these last two years, yes?

That doesn't mean that I've won against the kings or assassins they've dispatched.



I do mean.

So, so, w-wait a minute. You can't mean...!!

H-huh!?

O-oh, Umesato Junior High's.

...there is one local net I must connect with daily...

HERE COMES

CHALLENGER

...I was challenged to a duel through the school local net.

Two months ago...

...the very day summer vacation ended...

—By someone at Umesato, just like us.

...my duel avatar to a dummy spectator avatar.

Back then, I had changed ...

There's a function like that?

Because my duel avatar would be too conspicuous.

AVATAR
MODE CHANGE
DUEL
DUMMY

Your enemy who's in the school net...!?

Your school net avatar... That black swallow-tail!?

Your enemy saw it!?

However... when I think about it now, I was extremely careless.

At that time, I used my avatar for the local school net as my dummy.

What... ..!?



Immediately after...

But—
There were none.

...I was afraid of real attacks by assassins sent by the Six Kings.



...my points.

Not one.

There haven't been any.



...Then that's...

Yes...

A Burst Linker's greatest taboo: outed in the real world.



I've managed to get away with draws so far...

Since then I've been attacked over a dozen times by one opponent.

...without telling the Legion they belong to.

...wants to corner me and take every single one of my points...

Whoever discovered me...



NON (PRET)

In...

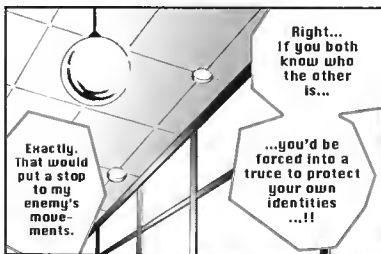
...the shower...

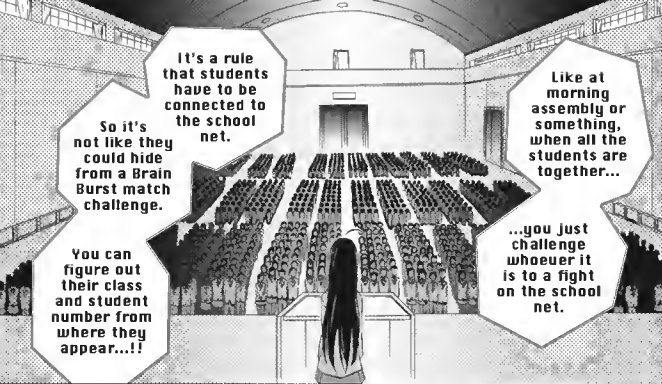
In the toilet. While I'm changing. In the shower ...

Corner you...?

There are plenty of moments where I'm emotionally defenseless at school.

If someone targeted these and challenged me to a fight, I certainly wouldn't be able to respond at the top of my game.





It's a rule that students have to be connected to the school net.

So it's not like they could hide from a Brain Burst match challenge.

You can figure out their class and student number from where they appear...!!

Like at morning assembly or something, when all the students are together...

...you just challenge whoever it is to a fight on the school net.



Oh... You've already tried that?

It took me a full day to come up with that idea.

Oh... Aren't you something?



C-could they actually do that?

.....
If they could, they'd have to be a super-hacker...

...so much so that they could change the Brain Burst program itself... Or someone with some connection with the program creator...



Not only that... Even immediately after being attacked, they were not on the list.

Given the situation, they should have to be on the school net, and yet...

...by some means or other.

It's hard to believe, but they can block duels...

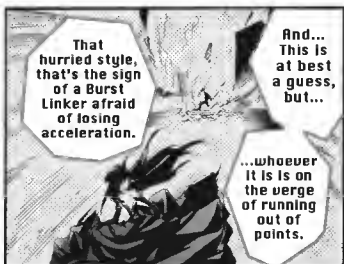
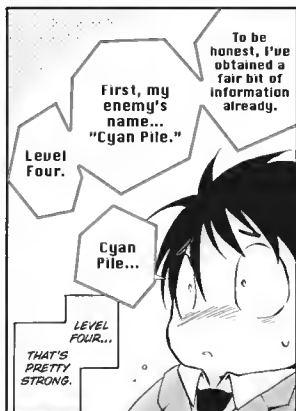
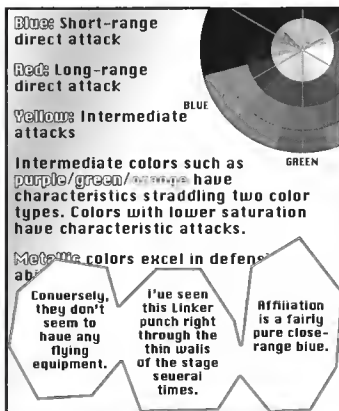


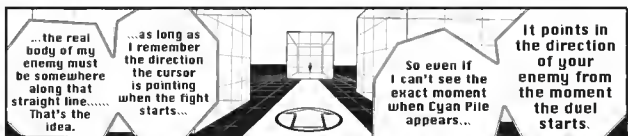
I have. —And the person wasn't there.

What...!?

Naturally. I checked the attendance later.

Oh... Maybe they were out that day?







But I have no solid proof.

...and narrowed down to the student most likely to be Cyan Pile.

...I've made a list of the students in the parts of the school the cursor pointed to...

In the attacks up to now...



And then — I want you to memorize Cyan Pile's direction with the cursor function.

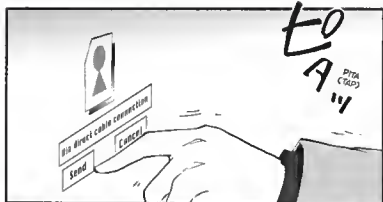
...even in a sudden attack, you'll be automatically accelerated and brought to the Gallery.

If you register me as someone you watch...



...THEN THE INTERSECTION WILL GIVE US A SINGLE POINT!!

IF WE HAVE TWO CURSORS...





CHIYU
.....?



And everything shows up on her face. She can't be the person who's targeting you with such total focus ...!!

She's super-terrible at games, doesn't matter what kind.

N-no...

That's not possible!!



That's... I mean.

We've been friends since we were kids.

You know her pretty well, hm?



Ch-
Chigu...?
She's... a Burst Linker ...?



If she is
Cyan Pile,
she should
obviously
know I'm
Black Lotus.

...When
she came
up to us at
the gates
before, I was
surprised.

KURASHIMA-
KUN HAS
A PROPER
BOYFRIEND,
DOESN'T
SHE!?

WHY WOULD
SHE GET
MAD ABOUT
THAT!?

TO CHIU

POSSESSION?

UNDER EXPLAINING
OURSELVES

IT'S
HARD
TO
EXPLAIN
JUST,
UM...

WELL,
THAT'S
JUST,
UM...

You
saw the
hostility
she has
toward
me.

In that
case, isn't
it even
more
natural to
think she
is Cyan
Pile?

THAT WAS
JUST YOU
AND ME ARE
DIRECTING...
AND STUFF.

NO...
THAT
WAS
JUST...

Um...she
doesn't
have that
kind of
skill.

I
suspected
it was
some
kind of
strategy
...

She's not
that kind
of person.

Then —
I'll check
directly
with her!!

I-I
understand!!

...You
will?

BO
U
PIKILL
CP/100

JUST
WHAT
EXACTLY
IS GOING
ON WITH
YOU?!

IF YOU
HAVE
SOME-
THING TO
SAY—

—I...

Which
is exactly
why I've been
working so hard;
I have no way
of confirming
anything
from this.

Are you
trying to
say you
have some
kind of
plan?

But what
do you
intend
to do
exactly?

You can't
simply go
up to her
and ask if
she's a Burst
Linker, you
know?



I.....

I'll direct
with her
and see!!

I...
I'll...

!!

That
should
satisfy
you, right
...!?

...I should
be able to
check if
she has the
Brain Burst
program or
not.

She can
block the
duels, but
if I look in
her memory
directly
through
her Neuro-
linker...



▶▶▶ **ACCEL • WORLD**

To Be Continued in the Next Stage....!!



AFTERWORD

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PICKING UP THE MANGA VERSION OF ACCEL WORLD. I'M THE ARTIST, HIROYUKI AIGAMO.

I FIRST CAME ACROSS ACCEL WORLD WHEN THE PLAN TO MAKE THE MANGA VERSION OF IT CAME UP.

I'M A BIT EMBARRASSED, BUT AT THE TIME, I HAD NO CONCEPTION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE WILDLY POPULAR ACCEL WORLD. THE E-MAIL I GOT ABOUT THE PROJECT FROM THE EDITOR AT DENGEKI BUNDO SAID THAT THEY WOULD SEND ME THE BOOKS IF I WANTED, BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER READING THE E-MAIL, I WENT OVER TO A NEARBY BOOKSTORE, BOUGHT THE FIRST VOLUME, AND HEADED STRAIGHT HOME WITH IT.

A FEW HOURS AFTER I FINISHED READING IT, I SENT AN E-MAIL IN REPLY TO THAT EDITOR WHILE THE FEELINGS THE BOOK AROUSED IN ME WERE STILL STRONG, TO THE EFFECT THAT I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT. I WAS COMPLETELY WON OVER BY ACCEL WORLD, AND I REALLY WANTED TO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DRAW THE MANGA! I VIVIDLY REMEMBER THAT MOMENT IN FRONT OF MY COMPUTER, FULL OF EXCITEMENT.

I HOPE THAT I CAN KEEP GIVING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO THIS MANGA GOING FORWARD, WITHOUT FORGETTING THOSE INITIAL IMPRESSIONS. I'D BE DELIGHTED IF YOU'D JOIN ME FOR THE RIDE.


HIROYUKI
AIGAMO

• ASSISTANTS •

Motoko Ikeda	Sakuraha
Hio	Shige Edo
Getsuyo	Sayoko Kamimoto
Mk=Il Inoue	B King Ito
Momo Usagi	Hanimaru
Kumiko Morita	Kana Shibusawa

• SPECIAL THANKS •

Reki Kawahara	HIMA
Akari Ryuryuu	
Chie Tsuchiya	Kazuma Miki



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I FIRST CAME ACROSS ACCEL WORLD WHEN THE PLAN TO MAKE THE MANGA VERSION OF IT CAME UP.

I'M A BIT EMBARRASSED, BUT AT THE TIME, I HAD NO CONCEPTION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE WILDLY POPULAR ACCEL WORLD. THE E-MAIL I GOT ABOUT THE PROJECT FROM THE EDITOR AT DENGEKI BUNKO SAID THAT THEY WOULD SEND ME THE BOOKS IF I WANTED, BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER READING THE E-MAIL, I WENT OVER TO A NEARBY BOOKSTORE, BOUGHT THE FIRST VOLUME, AND HEADED STRAIGHT HOME WITH IT.

A FEW HOURS AFTER I FINISHED READING IT, I SENT AN E-MAIL IN REPLY TO THAT EDITOR WHILE THE FEELINGS THE BOOK AROUSED IN ME WERE STILL STRONG, TO THE EFFECT THAT I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT. I WAS COMPLETELY WON OVER BY ACCEL WORLD, AND I REALLY WANTED TO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DRAW THE MANGA! I VIVIDLY REMEMBER THAT MOMENT IN FRONT OF MY COMPUTER, FULL OF EXCITEMENT.

I HOPE THAT I CAN KEEP GIVING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO THIS MANGA GOING FORWARD, WITHOUT FORGETTING THOSE INITIAL IMPRESSIONS. I'D BE DELIGHTED IF YOU'D JOIN ME FOR THE RIDE.


HIROYUKI
AIGAMO

• ASSISTANTS •

Motoko Ikeda	Sakuraha
Hio	Shige Edo
Getsuyo	Sayoko Kamimoto
Mk=Il Inoue	B King Ito
Momo Usagi	Hanimaru
Kumiko Morita	Kana Shibusawa

• SPECIAL THANKS •

Reki Kawahara	HIMA
Akari Ryuryuu	
Chie Tsuchiya	Kazuma Miki



comment in support of
"comic" accel world

CONGRATULATIONS
ON THE
PUBLICATION OF
THE COMICS
VERSION OF
ACCEL WORLD
1 AND 2!

original story: reki kawahara

comment

When I was writing the novel, once the scene came into my mind as a visual, I tried to portray this in text. However, at the limits of my sad abilities to turn those images into language, there were many things that I couldn't quite manage to depict in the finished text. Not only did Hiroyuki Rigame-san manage to wonderfully resolve in this manga version of *Accel World* all my dissatisfactions—if only this scene had been more bang! pow! with a little more za-za-za-zoom—he actually created something many times more beautiful, interesting, and exciting than the images in my head. As a creator, and also as a reader, I have the very happy experience of waiting impatiently for the next issue of *Dengeki Bunko Magazine* to arrive every two months and then following along with Kuroyukihime and Kuroyukihime as they laugh, cry, and run with such energy and life.

I really can't wait to be able to read once again about the battles of Haru and the gang with those books finishing up the story of novel volume 1, released as collected books now (and two at the same time no less!).

Rigame-san, congratulations on the publication of these comics! All your hard work has really paid off! I hope you keep doing this well with the serialization in the future too!

Reki Kawahara

I'M LOOKING
FORWARD TO THE
REST OF THE
BOOKS!

HIMA

character design: hima



accel world

art:
hiroyuki rigame
original story:
reki kawahara
accel world 01: kuroyukihime's return
character design:
hima

CONGRATULATIONS!!
COMICS
ON SALE!!

TWO VOLUMES COMING
OUT AT ONCE, THAT'S
AMAZING! EACH CHAPTER
MAKES MY HEART POUND
WITH ALL THE COOL
ACTION!

Akari Ryukyu
AKARI
RYUKYU



ACCEL WORLD 1

ART: HIROYUKI AIGAMO
ORIGINAL STORY: REKI KAWAHARA
CHARACTER DESIGN: HIMA

Translation: Jocelyne Allen • Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

ACCEL WORLD

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